

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 INT-05 AID-05 NSC-05 IO-10

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R 300535Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2890

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABU DHABI 0924

COMMERCE FOR BOUDREAU

DEPARTMENT PASS INTERIOR FOR OWRT/OMEARA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, TC

SUBJ: PROPOSED DESALINATION FACT FINDING MISSION

REF: (A) USDOC 5716 (B) ABU DHABI 273 (C) ABU DHABI 888 (NOTAL)

1. ALTHOUGH KHAMIS BIN ABDULLA INDICATED HE WOULD WELCOME FACT FINDING MISSION, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT UAE STOP WOULD NOT BE REWARDING FOR MISSION MEMBERS. ABU DHABI'S UMM AN-NAR POWER/DESALINATION PROJECT ALREADY OUT TO TENDER WITH OVER 38 FIRMS (ONLY TWO AMERICAN) BIDDING. KHAMIS BIN ABDULLA IN MEETING WITH EMBOFF CONFIRMED STATEMENTS BY SHAIKH SUROOR, ABU DHABI WATER AND ELECTRICITY MINISTER, AND MINISTRY CONSULTANTS, LEHMEYER, THAT NO NEW MAJOR PROJECTS ARE BEING PLANNED FOR ABU DHABI.

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2. AS REPORTED OUR 888, THERE IS LARGE UAE POWER AND WATER PROJECT GOING TO TENDER IN AUGUST. SPECS CALL FOR 3 X 2 MGD UNITS. AS FAR AS WE AWARE, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO DESIRE HERE TO USE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AS IN SAUDI. MOREOVER, SINCE PROJECT IS PET SCHEME OF MAHDI TAJIR, BIDDING PROCEDURES MAY PROVE TO BE IRRELEVANT. IN SHORT, FROM PROJECTS ON TRAIN OR PLANNED POINT OF VIEW PURPOSE HERE, OF FACT FINDING MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA PROBABLY NOT FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH CURRENT STATE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN UAE.

3. IF DOC AND STATE CONCUR, MISSION COMPOSITION COULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THOSE FIRMS WHO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO OUR 888 AND AT SOME APPROPRIATE POINT ON ITINERARY THOSE MEMBERS COULD TRAVEL TO DUBAI FOR MEETINGS WITH UAE WATER AND ELECTRICITY OFFICIALS, CONSULTANTS (IF AVAILABLE), AND POTENTIAL LOCAL AGENTS. TRAVEL DIRECTLY TO DUBAI BY LIMITED NUMBER OF MISSION MEMBERS WOULD ALSO BE EASIER FOR EMBASSY TO SUPPORT SINCE HOTEL SPACE MORE READILY AVAILABLE THERE THAN IN ABU DHABI. STERNER

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